

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 12, 2010

**0406**

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The inability of first responders to communicate in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 demonstrated the importance of interoperable communications systems in keeping our country safe. Though the 9/11 Commission laid bare the facts in their 2004 report, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina demonstrated that the problem remains. We write to encourage you to ensure that public safety personnel have the breadth of spectrum they need to meet the challenges they face.

A coalition of organizations representing police chiefs, fire chiefs, sheriffs, and other public safety personnel has spoken out about their concerns. They have proposed a solution. The reallocation of the 700 MHz D Block for public safety use, in combination with the 10 MHz already allocated in the 700 MHz band, could provide the contiguous, broadband spectrum our public safety personnel need for mission-critical communications, from two-way video conferencing to sophisticated, command-and-control operations that make full use of our modern technology.

Getting the most out of this spectrum will be expensive. Congress may need to offer funding support to allow first responders to fully exploit the technology. Private businesses have also expressed their willingness to form network- and infrastructure-sharing partnerships with first responders to help defray some of those costs. With proper regulation, to ensure that public safety communications receive first priority, such arrangements might offer welcome and most helpful cooperation in securing the necessary capital investment.

Implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission is a goal we all share. The reallocation of spectrum we have described offers the potential to finally achieve one of those goals nearly ten years after the attacks that brought the problem to the fore. We hope that the commission will move swiftly to study this means of providing public safety officers with the spectrum they so clearly need.

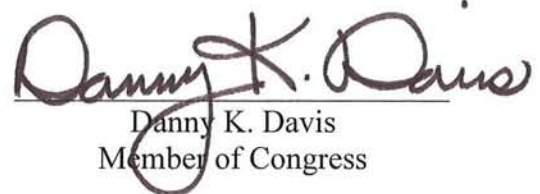
Sincerely,



Charles A. Gonzalez  
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

FCC Chairman Genachowski  
Public Safety in D Block Spectrum  
March 12, 2010



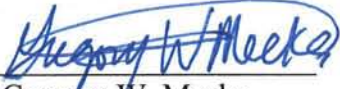
Gene Green  
Member of Congress



Rush Holt  
Member of Congress



Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.  
Member of Congress




Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



Mike Michaud  
Member of Congress



Steve Rothman  
Member of Congress



David Wu  
Member of Congress



Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 19, 2010

The Honorable John Barrow  
U.S. House of Representatives  
213 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barrow:

Thank you for your letter regarding proposals to reallocate the 700 MHz D Block for public safety programming. I have a strong appreciation for our first responders, and I am committed to achieving the best nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety communications.

The allocation of spectrum for public safety and the development of funding resources to make use of this spectrum present unique challenges both for Congress and the Commission. The National Broadband Plan (NBP) provided guidance for moving forward with these objectives, including a recommendation that Congress create funding resources to support both network construction and ongoing operations.

This is vital. Congressional funding is necessary for building a mobile broadband public safety network and delivering on the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission. The Commission has acted on NBP recommendations within its statutory authority, establishing – with the help of experts from the Department of Homeland Security and other federal partners – the Emergency Response Interoperability Center (ERIC) to guide technical standards development and help create a solid foundation for nationwide interoperable cooperation. This is necessary to ensure that a new network achieves the 9/11 Commission goal of interoperability. The Commission also recently provided waivers to twenty-one jurisdictions, authorizing them to initiate early build-outs of public safety broadband networks using the 10 MHz of the 700 MHz spectrum licensed to the Public Safety Spectrum Trust, subject to interoperability requirements.

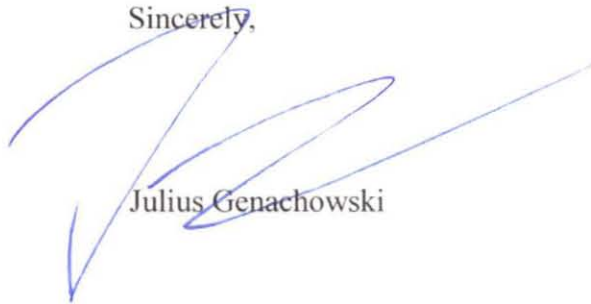
Under current law, the Commission is obligated to auction the 700 MHz D Block spectrum for commercial use. I have directed the Commission's staff to provide assistance to Congress as it considers legislative action related to this matter.

Regardless of how much spectrum ultimately is allocated to public safety in addition to its current 24 MHz, I am committed to working with Congress, public safety officials, and the wireless community to facilitate creation of networks that protect Americans and prevent

Page 2—The Honorable John Barrow

tragedies that can be avoided by better communications among first responders. Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Julius Genachowski.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

October 19, 2010

The Honorable Michael Capuano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1414 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Capuano:

Thank you for your letter regarding proposals to reallocate the 700 MHz D Block for public safety programming. I have a strong appreciation for our first responders, and I am committed to achieving the best nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety communications.

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Sincerely,

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Julius Genachowski



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 19, 2010

The Honorable Danny K. Davis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2159 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

Thank you for your letter regarding proposals to reallocate the 700 MHz D Block for public safety programming. I have a strong appreciation for our first responders, and I am committed to achieving the best nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety communications.

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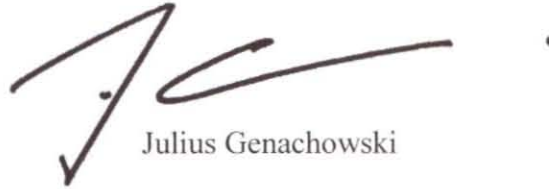
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Page 2—The Honorable Danny K. Davis

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

October 19, 2010

The Honorable Charles A. Gonzalez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
303 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gonzalez:

Thank you for your letter regarding proposals to reallocate the 700 MHz D Block for public safety programming. I have a strong appreciation for our first responders, and I am committed to achieving the best nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety communications.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

October 19, 2010

The Honorable Gene Green  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2372 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

Thank you for your letter regarding proposals to reallocate the 700 MHz D Block for public safety programming. I have a strong appreciation for our first responders, and I am committed to achieving the best nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety communications.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

October 19, 2010

The Honorable Rush Holt  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1214 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Holt:

Thank you for your letter regarding proposals to reallocate the 700 MHz D Block for public safety programming. I have a strong appreciation for our first responders, and I am committed to achieving the best nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety communications.

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Julius Genachowski



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 19, 2010

The Honorable Jesse Jackson, Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2419 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Jackson, Jr.:

Thank you for your letter regarding proposals to reallocate the 700 MHz D Block for public safety programming. I have a strong appreciation for our first responders, and I am committed to achieving the best nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety communications.

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Page 2—The Honorable Jesse Jackson, Jr.

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Julius Genachowski



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 19, 2010

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Meeks:

Thank you for your letter regarding proposals to reallocate the 700 MHz D Block for public safety programming. I have a strong appreciation for our first responders, and I am committed to achieving the best nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety communications.

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Julius Genachowski



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 19, 2010

The Honorable Michael Michaud  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1724 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Michaud:

Thank you for your letter regarding proposals to reallocate the 700 MHz D Block for public safety programming. I have a strong appreciation for our first responders, and I am committed to achieving the best nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety communications.

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Page 2—The Honorable Michael Michaud

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Sincerely,

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Julius Genachowski



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 19, 2010

The Honorable Steven R. Rothman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2303 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rothman:

Thank you for your letter regarding proposals to reallocate the 700 MHz D Block for public safety programming. I have a strong appreciation for our first responders, and I am committed to achieving the best nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network for public safety communications.

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WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

October 19, 2010

The Honorable David Wu  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2338 Rayburn House Office Building  
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Dear Congressman Wu:

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